Ernest Crowther





Rank: - 2nd Lt.

Regiment: - Royal Engineers (Formerly Sgt 39/99149) 92nd Field Coy.

Killed in Action: - 25th October 1918 aged 25 years

Cemetery: - Le Cateau Military Cemetery, Nord, France 11.A.9

Batley News, 2 Nov 1918 (photo)

Family Details

Ernest was born on the 28th June 1893 in Morley the son of George Rowland Crowther and Mary Thompson Crowther nee Fawell, who married in 1877 at Ripon. He was baptised at the Mission Hall, Morley on 24th January 1894.

In 1901 he was living at 42, Gillroyd Parade, Morley with his mother and siblings Frances (Fanny) Elizabeth born 1880 in Selby who was a teacher at a day school and Lewis born 1897. His father, brother, Horace born 1889 and sister Charlotte Annie 1869 were visitors in Scarborough.

In 1911 he was living with his mother and siblings Frances, Horace and Lewis at Florence Cottages, Streethouse Pontefract in a six roomed home. Both Ernest and Horace were employed as colliery clerks.

His siblings Rowland born 1878-1881, Fred 1883, George Herbert 1885 and Louisa 1887=1888 had all died in infancy.

George Rowland had previously been married to Jane I' Anson, Charlotte Annie was born in 1869 and Jessie in 1871. He was a Town Missionary or Congregational Minister and in 1891 the family was living at Brunswick Street, Dewsbury.

At one time George Rowland was in charge of the King Street, Mission at Batley Carr. He moved around with his job and in 1918 he was minister at the Boothroyd Lane Congregational Mission, Dewsbury. His family lived at East View, Chapel Fold, Staincliffe.

Before enlisting Ernest was a clerk in the Land Survey Department, Doncaster.

Service Details

Ernest enlisted in May 1915 and went to France in June 1916 as a Sergeant in the Royal Engineers and after serving there nearly a year and a half came home for a commission. He was commissioned on 6th November 1917, was gazetted in February 1918 and returned to France in August 1918.

A Major wrote to his parents: -

"I sincerely regret to inform you your son was killed today October 25th His death was absolutely instantaneous and he cannot have suffered at all. He and I were

together inspecting roads and arranging work when a shell burst a few yards off and your son was struck on the head. I am very grieved about your son especially as he was exceptionally keen, brave and competent and a very good leader. His men will miss him very much indeed, as, though he had only been with us such as a short time, they all loved and respected him. "

Ernest was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at Christ Church Staincliffe and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group